

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are presented below whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for generating an audio alert, comprising:  
detecting an alert condition;

determining a multi-tiered notification path associated with the alert condition, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition, **the multi-tiered notification path determined based on a property of an object associated with the alert condition;**

constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; and

outputting the audio notification message via at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein constructing an audio notification message includes identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood synonym.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein detecting at alert condition includes detecting an alert condition within a plurality of subsystems of a network management application.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining at least one audio characteristic associated with the audio notification message.

6. **(Original)** The method of Claim 5, wherein the audio characteristic is a volume.

7. **(Original)** The method of Claim 5, wherein the audio characteristic is a balance.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the audio notification message is presented in accordance with a filter.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the determining the multi-tiered notification path includes analyzing a parameter associated with alert condition and selecting the at least one tier of the notification path based on the parameter.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the multi-tiered notification path includes analyzing an escalation list.

11. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein constructing the audio notification message includes:

- determining a user associated with the audio notification message;
- determining a language preference associated with the user; and
- constructing the audio message based on the language preference.

12. **(Withdrawn)** A method for processing an audio command, comprising:

- receiving an audio command from a user;
- processing the audio command to derive command data;
- constructing a command based on the command data; and
- storing the command in an object repository.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A system for generating an audio alert, comprising;  
means for detecting an alert condition;

means for determining a multi-tiered notification path associated with the alert condition, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition, **the multi-tiered notification path determined based on a property of an object associated with the alert condition;**

means for constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; and

means for outputting the audio notification message via at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path.

14. **(Withdrawn)** A system for processing an audio command, comprising;

means for receiving an audio command from a user;

means for processing the audio command to derive command data;

means for constructing a command based on the command data; and

means for storing the command in an object repository.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for generating an audio alert, including:

computer readable instructions for detecting an alert condition;

computer readable instructions for determining a multi-tiered notification path associated with the alert condition, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition, **the multi-tiered notification path determined based on a property of an object associated with the alert condition;**

computer readable instructions for constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; and

computer readable instructions for outputting the audio notification message via at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path.

16. **(Withdrawn)** A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for processing an audio command, including:

computer readable instructions for receiving an audio command from a user;  
computer readable instructions for processing the audio command to derive command data;

computer readable instructions for constructing a command based on the command data; and

computer readable instructions for storing the command in an object repository.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying the occurrence of a prior alert condition that was not responded to, and wherein the multi-tier notification path is determined based at least in part on the occurrence of the prior alert condition.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon the severity of the alert condition.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon a type of object associated with the alert condition.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the audio notification message is not responded to within a designated time limit.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the alert condition is not addressed within a designated time limit.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising filtering the audio notification message such that at least one user on the multi-tiered notification path does not receive the audio notification message.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 22, wherein filtering the audio notification message comprises filtering the audio notification message based on a property associated with an object associated with the alert condition.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 23, wherein the property is selected from the group consisting of a type of the object, a name of the object, a location of the object, the severity of the alert condition, the time of day, a level of risk, and an importance assigned to the object.